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Nebraska residents. And the reason for that is not that we want to exclude anyone from coming to the state, that we know that Nebraska students who want to teach in the state will be more likely, we think, to be the candidates we should be selecting from, because they already live here and they have chosen to go to college here, and there's a good chance that they would like to stay if they can afford to do so. So this is a way to provide a loan to them that can be forgiven if they stay in the state. But we also are encouraging them...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...to go into these shortage areas, the same shortage areas that will be determined by the State Department of Education and the ones that were just found in the study that's dated February 27, 2001. I think it's important that we get the teachers in the pipeline and that we encourage them to go into the shortage areas. This is the tool to do this. You can't grow a teacher overnight. We need to get started. We need to fund this, this year. And it would have been in this year's budget, but because of the circumstances last year in the study, that was not the choice of the Governor; it was not my choice to attempt to override the veto. But I believe this year we've got all the signals of "go" that need to happen to get this process moving. And we can do it, and we can have a positive impact right away. I oppose the Chambers amendment, and hope you will support keeping the loan forgiveness program in this year's budget so we can begin our work right away. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Thompson read something that I think is devastating. On the back side of the sheet, which says on the front side summary of teacher shortage survey results, if you look at that last sentence, of the respondents, 66.1 percent indicated that the quality of applicants was worse than during the past 3 years; 66 percent said they're worse. Yet, we're told give money to these private schools because they're the ones producing all these